

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OECD P 00825 092148Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 CEA-01 EA-09 FRB-01

NEA-10 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 OMB-01 /080 W

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P R 092115Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 051

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS OECD PARIS 00825

DEPT PASS LABOR FOR METCALF, HEWITT AND NED PERSONS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, OECD

SUBJECT: MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING,
JAN 19-21

REF: A) OECD PARIS 32498; B) OECD PARIS 33132;
C) METCALF/FORRESTER TELECON OF 1/7

1. MEETING DATES

MSAC WILL MEET JAN 19, 20 AND, IF NECESSARY, JAN 21.
RELEVANT DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN POUCHED. MSAC AD HOC
DRAFTING GROUP WILL MEET 9:30 A.M., JAN 19 TO NEGOTIATE
LATEST LANGUAGE CHANGES TO RECOMMENDATION WHICH SEVERAL
MEMBER COUNTRIES HAVE PROPOSED. DIRECTORATE HEAD GASS
TOLD MISSION OFFICER JAN 7 THAT HE WAS NOT CERTAIN
WHETHER FULL MSAC OR JUST ITS SPECIAL WORKING PARTY FOR
MINISTERIAL WOULD MEET JAN 21. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT
IN EVENT A THIRD MEETING DAY WERE REQUIRED, LOGIC SUG-
GESTED MEETING BE A PLENARY RATHER THAN SEPCIAL WP LEVEL.

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PAGE 02 OECD P 00825 092148Z

2. BIAC/TUAC CONSULTATIONS

GASS SAID THAT SECRETARIAT WILL ASK MSAC DURING FORTHCOMING MEETING TO ACCEPT OR REJECT UK COMPROMISE PROPOSAL THAT MSAC ENLARGED BUREAU ARRANGE CONSULTATIONS WITH BIAC/TUAC. THE ENLARGED BUREAU, OF WHICH US IS MEMBER, CONSISTS OF MSAC CHAIRMAN, TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN AND INTERESTED DELEGATIONS. IF MSAC ACCEPTS UK PROPOSITION, IT WILL THEN BE ASKED TO SET DATE FOR SUCH CONSULTATIONS BEFORE THE MINISTERIAL. MSAC WOULD ALSO DETERMINE WHAT DOCUMENTS WILL BE GIVEN TO TUAC. (AS OF NOW, THE BIAC HAS NOT REQUESTED CONSULTATIONS.)

3. COMMENT: MISSION POSITION REMAINS AS REPORTED REFTELS; NAMELY, THAT WHILE US DEL METCALF'S RATIONALE FOR OPPOSING CONSULTATIONS AT THIS LATE DATE IS WELL TAKEN, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE US SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OECD REJECTION OF A TUAC REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS. REFUSAL TO TALK IS DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY POLITICALLY AND MISSION WOULD ADVISE AGAINST THE US BEING AMONG THE FIRST TO OPPOSE CONSULTATIONS. AT THE VERY LEAST, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT WE REITERATE OUR CONCERNS TO MSAC, BUT AGREE TO ABIDE BY MAJORITY OPINION. AS TO METCALF'S CONCERN WITH CONFRONTING MINISTERS WITH TUAC VIEWS IN SOME FORM (PARA 5, REF A) MISSION DOES NOT PERCEIVE A PROBLEM BEYOND THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL PAPER IN MINISTERS' DOSSIERS OUTLINING TUAC'S POSITION. FURTHERMORE, THE COMMUNIQUE COULD (AND PERHAPS SHOULD) REFER TO THE FACT THAT MINISTERS "TOOK NOTE" OF TRADE UNION AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY VIEWS. MISSION REQUESTS DEFINITIVE GUIDANCE RE OFFICIAL US POSITION ON CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO JAN 19 MEETING.

4. ILO CONSULTATIONS

BASED ON REF C, MISSION OFFICER ADVISED GASS THAT WE OPPOSE FORMAL DISCUSSION OF ILO BY MINISTERS BUT ACCEPT INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF SAME IN CORRIDORS AND ELSEWHERE. THE THOUGHT OF MINISTERS BEING ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR KEY ILO ADVISERS WAS DISCUSSED AS POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE. GASS CONSIDERED THIS AN EXCELLENT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 OECD P 00825 092148Z

IDEA AND WILL PURSUE IT WITHIN SECRETARIAT. (COMMENT: MISSION CONSIDERS SEPARATE MEETINGS OF ILO ADVISERS POTENTIALLY USEFUL AND DESIRABLE EFFORT TO COORDINATE OECD MEMBER COUNTRY POSITIONS PRIOR TO ILO JUNE MEETING. OECD FORUM WOULD ALLOW KEY GOVERNMENTAL ILO POLICY ADVISERS OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS, CULTIVATE RELATIONSHIPS AND, GIVE US ADDITIONAL PLATFORM FROM WHICH TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITION RE ILO REFORMS.

END COMMENT)

5. ACTION REQUESTED

WASHINGTON VIEWS ON CONSULTATIONS WITH BUAC/TUAC (PARA 3)
AND ON DESIRABILITY OF PARALLEL MEETINGS OF MEMBER
COUNTRY ILO EXPERTS (PARA 4).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS, LABOR FORCE, SOCIAL SERVICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OECDP00825
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760008-1063
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760171/aaaac1hq.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 OECD PARIS 32498, 75 OECD PARIS 33132
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2004 by barnescd>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING, JAN 19-21
TAGS: ELAB, SOCI, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006